

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Kavalkovich, et al.
Serial No.: 09/831,424
Filed: June 21, 2001
For: Alginate Layer System for Chondrogenic Differentiation of Human Mesenchymal Stem Cells
Group: 1651
Examiner: Naff

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

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AMENDMENT

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated September 3, 2002, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 1-11 without prejudice and add the following claims:

12. A composition for producing cartilage, comprising human mesenchymal stem cells in an alginate gel layer which supports the differentiation and maturation of human mesenchymal stem cells into chondrocytes, and wherein the mesenchymal stem cells are contacted with a chondroinductive agent.

13. The composition of Claim 12 wherein said chondroinductive agent is selected from the group consisting of a glucocorticoid and a member of the transforming growth factor superfamily.

14. The composition of Claim 13 wherein said chondroinductive factor is TGF- β 3.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Examining Operations



27162

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Kavalkovich, et al.
Serial No: 09/831,424 Art Unit: 1651
Filed: June 21, 2001 Examiner: Naff
Title: Alginate Layer System For Chondrogenic Differentiation of Human Mesenchymal Stem Cells

Docket No.: 640100-426 Customer No.: 27162

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Enclosed please find the following:

1. Amendment in response to the Office Action dated September 3, 2002;
2. Petition for two months Extension of Time (small entity);
3. Check No. 1001 in the amount of \$205.00; and
4. A self-addressed, postage paid, return receipt postcard, date stamp and return of which is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit **Account No. 03-0678**.

FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited today with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Raymond J. Lillie, Esq.

Date

Respectfully submitted,

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